

## **Shrewsbury Public Schools Fifth Grade Summer Reading Booklist**

**Required Readings: Choose at least one.**

### **Adventure**

#### *Level One:*

**Mr. Tucket** (or any other book in the "Tucket" Series) by Gary Paulsen

In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild. (Other titles include: **Call Me Francis Tucket, Tucket's Gold, Tucket's Home, and Tucket's Ride.**)

**Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie** by Laura Ingalls Wilder

The first two stories about Laura Ingalls and her family. The Ingalls family travels by covered wagon across the Midwest in the 1870's first settling in Wisconsin then moving to Kansas.

#### *Level Two:*

**Brian's Winter, Brian's Return, and Brian's Hunt** by Gary Paulsen

These three books are sequels to **Hatchet**.

**On the Banks of Plum Creek** by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Laura and her family move to Minnesota where they live in a dugout until a new house is built and face misfortunes caused by flood, blizzard, and grasshoppers.

**These Happy Golden Years** by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Fifteen-year-old Laura becomes a school teacher and becomes engaged, and starts a new life as the wife of Almanzo Wilder.

#### *Level Three:*

**By the Shores of Silver Lake** by Laura Ingalls Wilder

In the days of building the railroad and final settlement of the West the Ingalls family moved from Minnesota to Dakota Territory.

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

**Canyons** by Gary Paulsen

Finding a skull on a camping trip in the canyons outside El Paso, Texas, Brennan becomes involved with the fate of a young Apache Indian who lived in the late 1800s.

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

**Student Choice:**

Choose at least one book from the following list to read in addition to the required reading book.

**Fantasy***Level One:*

**Pleasing the Ghost** by Sharon Creech

Nine-year-old Dennis, whose uncle and father died within a year of one another, is visited by the ghost of his uncle, and together they settle some unfinished business.

*Level Two:*

**Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

**Peter Pan** by J. M. Barrie

The adventures of the three Darling children in Never-Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up.

**Science Fiction***Level Three:*

**Things Not Seen** by Andrew Clements

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

**Transall Saga** by Gary Paulsen

While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

Any Science Fiction by John Christopher

**Realistic Fiction***Level One:*

**Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardner

Little Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.

**S.O.R. Losers** by Avi

Each member of the South Orange River seventh-grade soccer team has qualities of excellence, but not on the soccer field.

*Level Two:*

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

The story of Marty, a boy who finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, and tries to hide the animal from its real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat dogs.

**Beetles Slightly Toasted** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Andy's entering the fifth-grade essay contest stirs his imagination to creative heights as he competes with his know-it-all cousin by making recipes with some unusual food sources and testing them on unaware friends and family.

**The Jacket** by Andrew Clements

Sixth-grader Phil comes to an awareness of his own racial prejudice after he sees Daniel, an African-American boy, wearing his brother's one-of-a-kind jacket and leaps to the conclusion that Daniel has stolen the coat.

*Level Three:*

**The Landry News: A Brand New School Story** by Andrew Clements

A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

### **Historical Fiction**

#### *Level One:*

**George Washington's Teeth** by Deborah Chandra

Includes bibliographical references. A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth. A timeline taken from diary entries and other nonfiction sources follows.

**The Secret Soldier: the story of Deborah Sampson** by Ann McGovern

This biography features woman who disguised herself as a man and joined the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

**War Comes to Willy Freeman** by James Lincoln Collier

A free thirteen-year-old black girl in Connecticut is caught up in the horror of the Revolutionary War and the danger of being returned to slavery when her patriot father is killed by the British and her mother disappears.

#### *Level Two:*

**Jump Ship to Freedom** by James Lincoln Collier

By rights young Daniel Arabus and his mother, slaves in Captain Iver's house in Stratford, Conn., should be free. But the Captain refuses to honor their agreement and instead sells Daniel on board a ship to the West Indies.

#### *Level Three:*

**Lyddie** by Katherine Patterson

Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

**Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

### **Mystery**

#### *Level One:*

**Any Chet Gecko Mystery** by Bruce Hale

"Those who haven't read a 'Chet Gecko' mystery don't know what they're missing." School Library Journal

#### *Level Two:*

**Chasing Vermeer** by Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Any Sammy Keyes book by Wendelin Van Draanen

### **Poetry**

#### *Level Two:*

**Hoop Kings: Poems** by Charles R. Smith, Jr.

A collection of twelve poems that celebrate contemporary basketball stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, and Kobe Bryant.

**Hoop Queens: Poems** by Charles R. Smith, Jr.

A collection of twelve poems that celebrate contemporary women basketball stars, including Yolanda Griffith, Chamique Holdsclaw, and Natalie Williams.

### **Traditional**

#### *Level Two:*

**Soft Rain, A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears** by Cornelia Cornelissen

A nine-year-old Cherokee girl, is forced to relocate, along with her family, from North Carolina to the West.

### **Informational**

*Level Two:*

DK Eyewitness Books about Weather, Matter, Light, or Earth/Moon/Sun

### **Biography**

**Levels one, two and three:**

Any biography from the following time periods:

- Age of European Exploration
- Colonial Times
- Revolutionary War

### **Autobiography**

*Level Two:*

**My Life in Dog Years** by Gary Paulsen

The author describes how dogs have impacted his life from childhood through the present day, recounting the stories of his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.

**Looking Back: A Book of Memories** by Lois Lowry

Using family photographs and quotes from her books, the author provides glimpses into her life.

### **Recommended Authors:**

C.S. Lewis, Robert Newton Peck, Lloyd Alexander, Sharon Creech, Gary Paulsen, Katherine Paterson, John Bellairs, E.L.Konigsburg, T.M. Murphy, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Jane Yolen, Patricia McLachlan, Scott O'Dell, Betsy Byars, Paul Zindel, James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier, J.K.Rowling.